

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESMENT
HISTORIC BARN SITE AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, ADDISON COUNTY, VERMONT**



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UVM Report No. 887

INTRODUCTION

Middlebury College proposes to construct four new student residences, which will include one residence hall and three town houses, on its campus in Middlebury, Addison County, Vermont (Figures 1 and 2). The Area of Potential Effect of the project includes the remains of an historic period barn. The barn foundation is located a short distance south of the College's 'Turner House,' a private residence turned residential hall located at #665 College Street / VT Route 125 (Figure 3). The proposed Ridgeline Residence Hall will be built on the site of the barn foundation (see Figure 2). This Archaeological Resource Assessment (ARA) was conducted by Kate Kenny, an archaeologist and historian with the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) to satisfy the requirements of the State of Vermont's Act 250 permitting process. The goals of this ARA were to research and document the barn in order to assess its potential archaeological significance and to determine if further archaeological work would be needed. A wide variety of archival resources were used in the preparation of this report including historic maps, land records, newspapers, aerial photographs, census records, vital records, probate records, and college publications.

SITE DESCRIPTION

A site visit was conducted on July 29, 2015. The visible structural remains of the barn were located 31.6 m (103.7 ft) south of the southwest corner of the 'Turner House' (see Figure 3). The overall footprint of the structure measured 13.9 m (45 ft) east-west and 21.1 m (70 ft) north-south (Figures 4 and 5). There may have been an internal east-west wall / partition located near a projection or pier that was situated about 12.2 m (40 ft) south of the north wall. The elevation of the site is approximately 22 m (400 ft) above mean sea level (USGS 1905).

The barn was built into the western side of a hill. While the ground slopes down to the west, it is fairly level to the east and flush with the top of the eastern wall of the barn. The foundation consists of roughly constructed dry-laid stone walls that vary in height from 1.7 m (5.6 ft) high along the eastern wall to between 30 and 50 cm (1 and 1.6 ft) high around the southwest corner (Figure 6). These walls were up to approximately 70 cm (2.3 ft) wide. This structure may have had a partially 'open basement' along the north half of its western side, where the sill plate may have been unsupported for a short distance or supported by a few posts set on low footings. However, this feature is not present on the structure in the aerial photographs taken in the 1930s, which are discussed in the next section of the report.

The site has experienced a few minor post-occupation disturbances, possibly associated with the development of the paved walking paths and/or to general property maintenance (e.g. the dumping of soil or organic debris). The area around the foundation is dominated by a very young forest with a light, but extensive, understory and a scattering of a few older trees. Historical aerial imagery of the site suggests that this once extensively cleared area was allowed to return to nature after the mid-1960s. The area near the center of the western side of the barn was used as a domestic dump in the early to mid-twentieth century. The discarded rubbish observed included bottles, glass jars (with metal screw on lids), ceramic knob and tube electrical system elements, light bulb fragments, tin cans, tins, paint cans, metal sheets, light barbed wire & etc. (Figure 7). No evidence of a concrete or other external silo¹ was noted.

¹ In New England, free standing exterior silos tend to be associated with dairy operations after the late 1870s (Visser 1997:130).

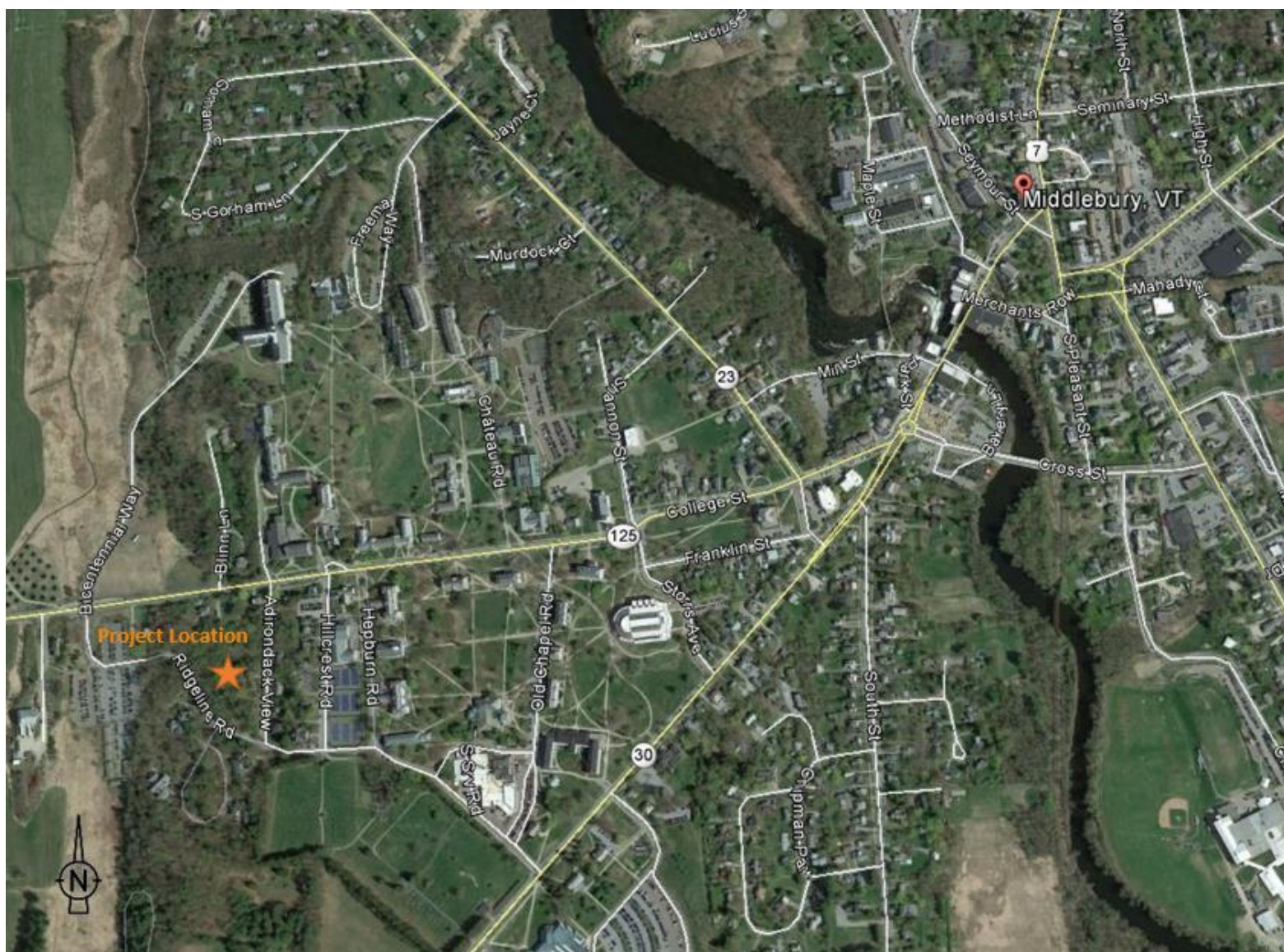


Figure 1. Image showing the location of the proeject area in Middlebury, Vermont.

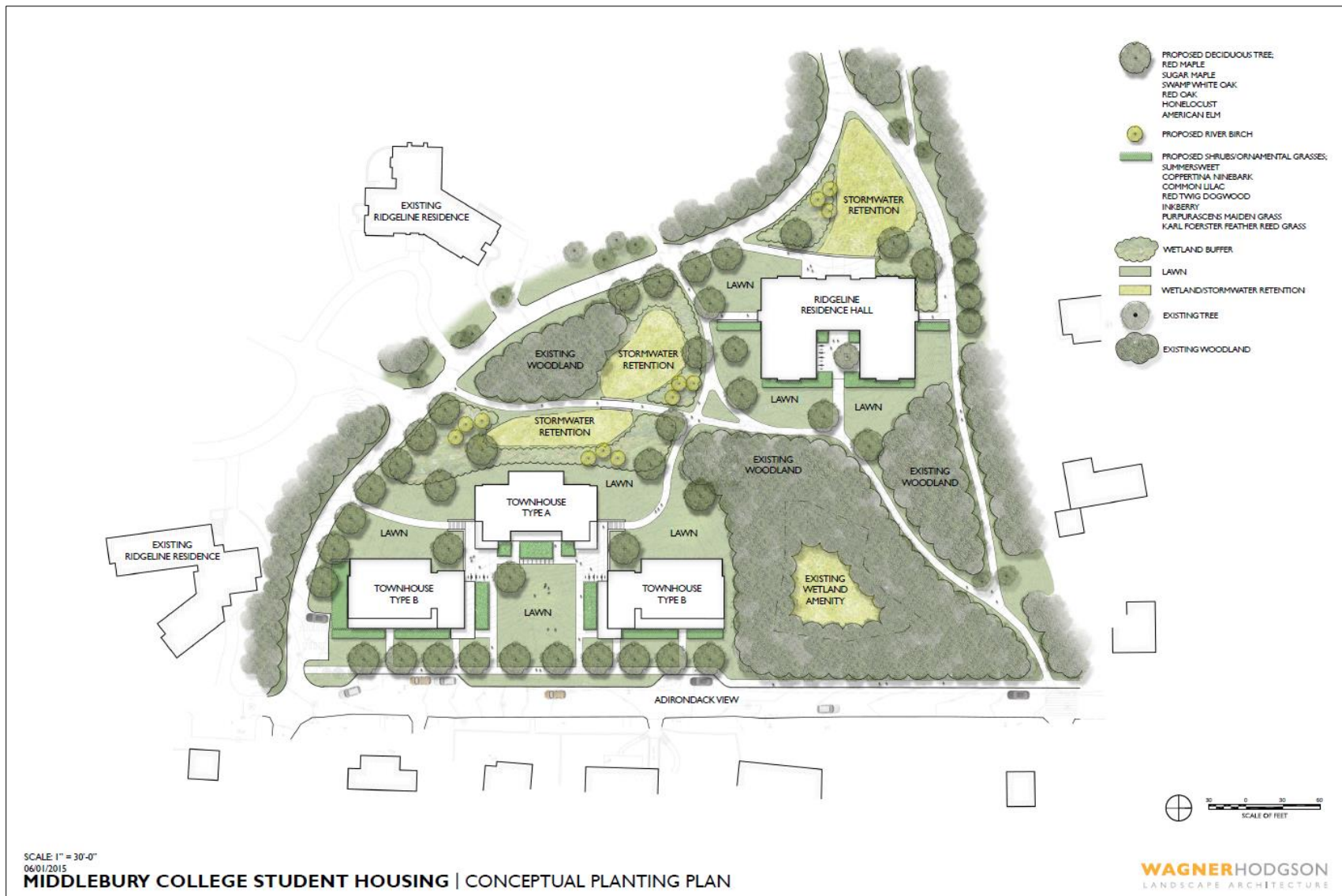


Figure 2. Conceptual plan showing the proposed student housing construction at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont (plan provided by Middlebury College).

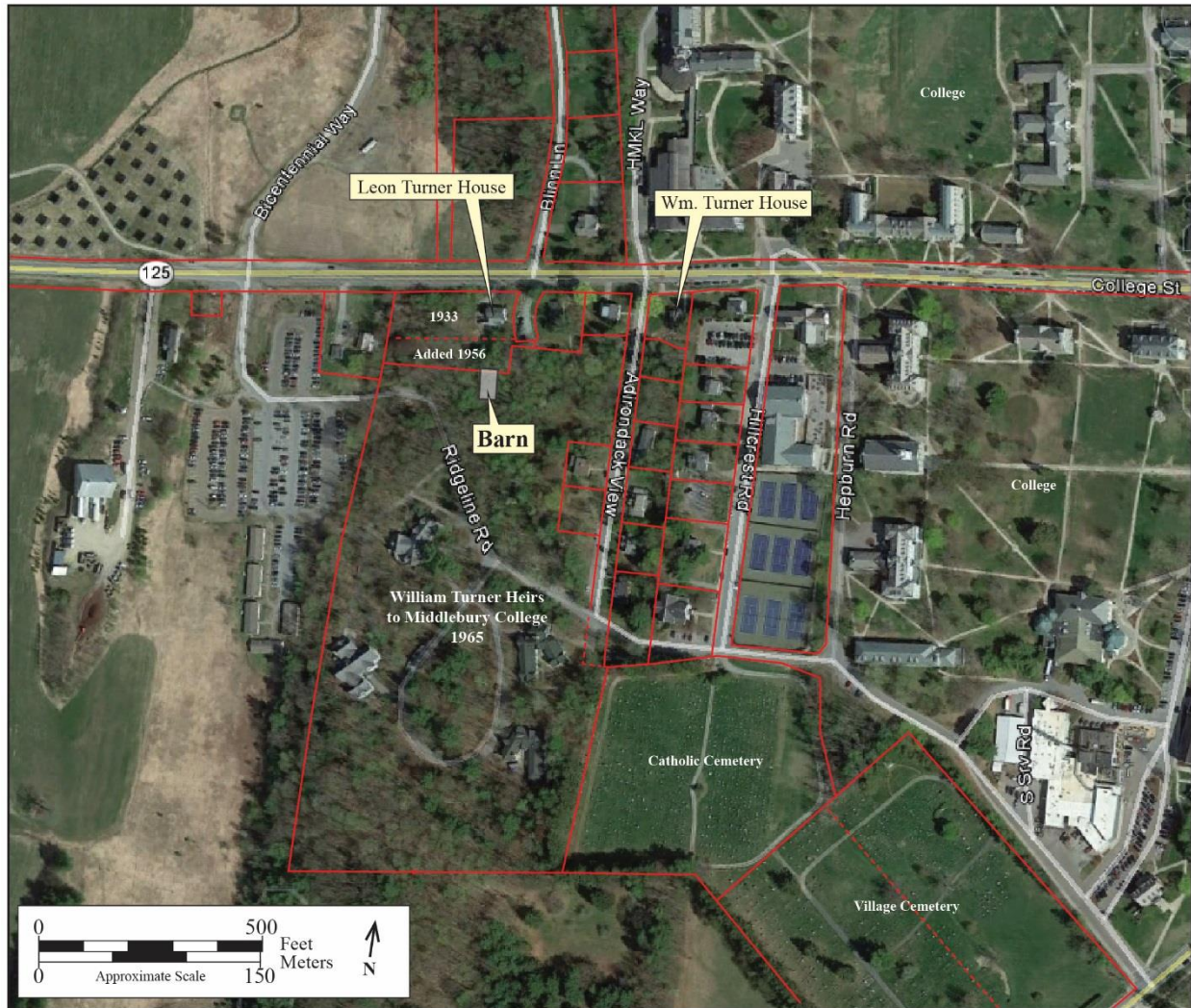


Figure 3. Map showing the location of the barn site on Middlebury College's campus, Middlebury, Addison County, Vermont (Google Maps 2014).

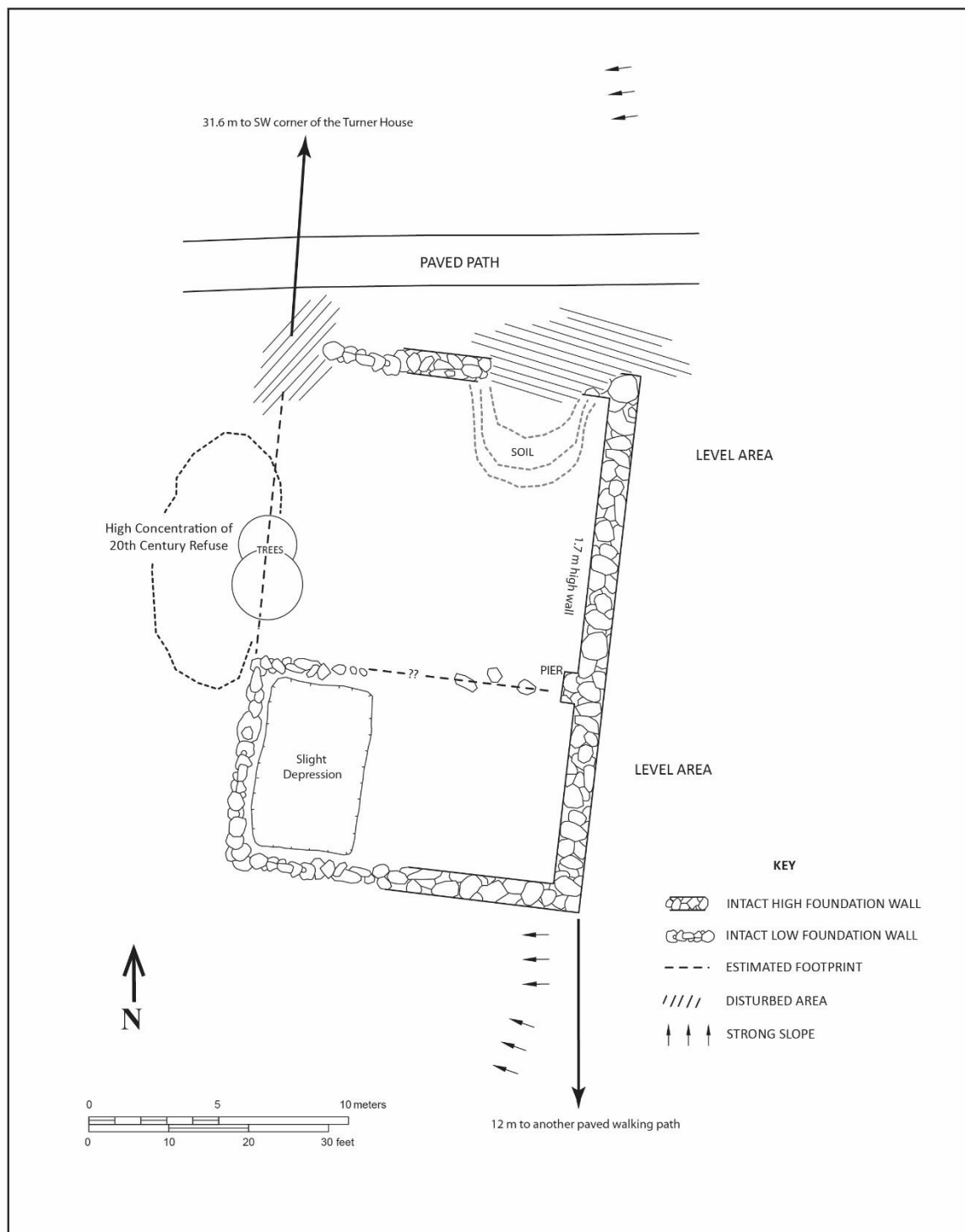


Figure 4. Field sketch of the barn foundation (2015).



Figure 5. View of the barn foundation, looking southeast (2015).

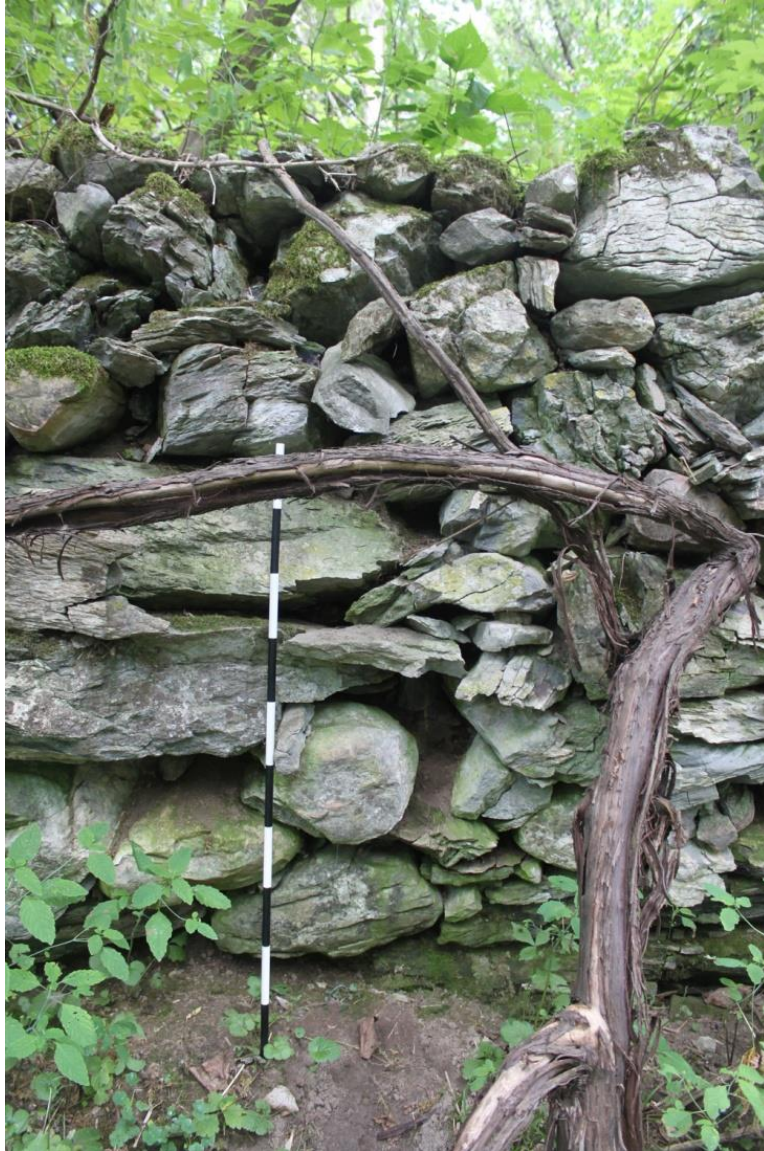


Figure 6. View of the construction of the barn's eastern wall, looking east (2015). The scale is 1 m (3.3 ft).



Figure 7. View of the twentieth century refuse on the ground surface along the western wall of the barn, looking south (2015).

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The barn site was included within a 14.5 acre parcel deeded to Middlebury College by the heirs of William Turner (Roy and Carla Turner; Lloyd and Ocrena Turner; and Harold and Marion Keeler) in 1965 (see Figure 3) (MLR 60:368). Due to time constraints, research on the chain of title for the property was only pushed back to about the 1830s.

By the late 1830s, Edward Wainwright of Middlebury, Vermont, owned a sizable tract of land west of Middlebury College and south of College Street.² Edward Wainwright (1803-1881) was born in Connecticut, a son of Jonathan and Lucy (Bristol) Wainwright and a brother to Rufus Wainwright and Jonathan Jr. Wainwright who established a successful iron foundry in Middlebury after the War of 1812 (Swift 1859:388). Edward Wainwright appears to have been involved with a significant amount of property around Middlebury. He even owned the iron works for a time in the early 1840s (Rolando 1992:92). For a portion of the time that he lived in Middlebury, Edward Wainwright occupied the stately brick house on Main Street that was built

² For example, Wainwright purchased ninety-four acres lying west and south of the College property from Rufus Wainwright on February 16, 1839 (MLR 15:397). This land was located south of College Street and lay between the college and the farm of Judd & Harris to the west. This property may or may not include the project area. Wainwright made a few other purchases in the area. In October of 1856, Wainwright sold twenty-five acres to Middlebury College that lay on the south side of College Street between land already owned by the college and Myron Blake's farm (MLR 18:189). This land lay west of Israel D. Frost's property and extended south to the cemetery (see Figures 6 and 8).

in 1831 by Professor Edward Turner, which is now known as the ‘Storrs-Turner House’ (Beers 1871; Swift 1859:288; Walling 1857). Edward Wainwright’s first wife died in Middlebury on June 22, 1844, and in 1845 the Wainwright family sold the iron works (Dewey 1917:52; Rolando 1992:92). In 1850, the federal census listed Edward Wainwright as a farmer with an impressive \$12,000 in real estate holdings and five children (U.S. Census 1850). By 1857, however, Edward Wainwright had sold most, if not all, of his property in Middlebury and had moved to St. Peter, Minnesota (Minnesota Territorial and State Census 1849-1905; U.S. Census 1870, 1880).

On October 13, 1856, Myron Mead Blake (1812-1893), a native of Castleton, Vermont, bought 138 acres from Edward Wainwright for \$5,500 (Gravestone, Salisbury Cemetery, Salisbury Connecticut; MLR 18:183). This land probably included the current project area as its northern boundary extended over 2,000 ft along the south side of College Street extending east from the land then owned by Williamson³ (Figure 8). In February of 1857, Myron Blake mortgaged the farm on which he then lived to Middlebury College (MLR 18:253). The farm was described as being bounded north by the ‘highway to Bridport’ (which would later be called Green Street and would eventually become College Street); east by the College, the county [probably meaning the cemetery⁴] and the lands of Cyrus Porter⁵; south by lands of William Remele, Eli Stone, and Cyrus Porter; and west by Abraham Williamson (MLR 18:253) (see Figure 6).

The residence associated with this farm appears to have been located a significant distance west of the current project area. From subsequent land records and maps, it seems likely that Myron Blake built the residence labeled on F.W. Beers’ 1871 map of the Town of Middlebury as “J. Steele” shortly after the town had been surveyed for the 1857 Walling map (Figure 9; see Figure 8). Records also indicate that that Myron Blake was a relatively prosperous farmer. Around 1860, he lived with his wife, Lucy (Stone) Blake (1810-1894) who he married in 1834 in Cornwall, Vermont, and two of his three surviving sons, one of which was then attending college (Gravestone, Salisbury Cemetery, Salisbury Connecticut; U.S. Census 1860; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908). He owned real estate valued at \$7,500 and had \$1,302 in personal wealth (U.S. Census 1860). He was able to employ a farm laborer and a domestic servant (U.S. Census 1860). Eventually, all three of Mr. Blake’s surviving sons graduated from Middlebury College (Silas L. Blake ’59; Lyman H. Blake ’64, and Clarence E. Blake ’73) (Wiley 1917: 196, 213).

Myron and Lucy Blake sold their farm in Middlebury to Sylvanus R. Bolton prior to the mid-1860s. S.R. Bolton (1819-1893) was variously described as a carpenter, mechanic, and, in his later years, as a farmer (Child 1882:349; U.S. Census 1850, 1870; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908). On April 16, 1864, Sylvanus Bolton along with his wife, Sarah, and James Bolton sold the farm (then 157 acres) for \$7,500 to Eli B. Parker (1810-

³ However, it appears that Blake added at least nineteen more acres to the farm at some point.

⁴ The public cemetery in Middlebury was originally laid out with ten acres in 1827 (Child 1881:139).

⁵ Deacon Cyrus Porter (1795-1857), a native of Connecticut, was succeeded on his farm by his son, George L. Porter (1837-1901) (see Figures 6 and 7) (Beers 1871; U.S. Census 1850; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908; Walling 1857).

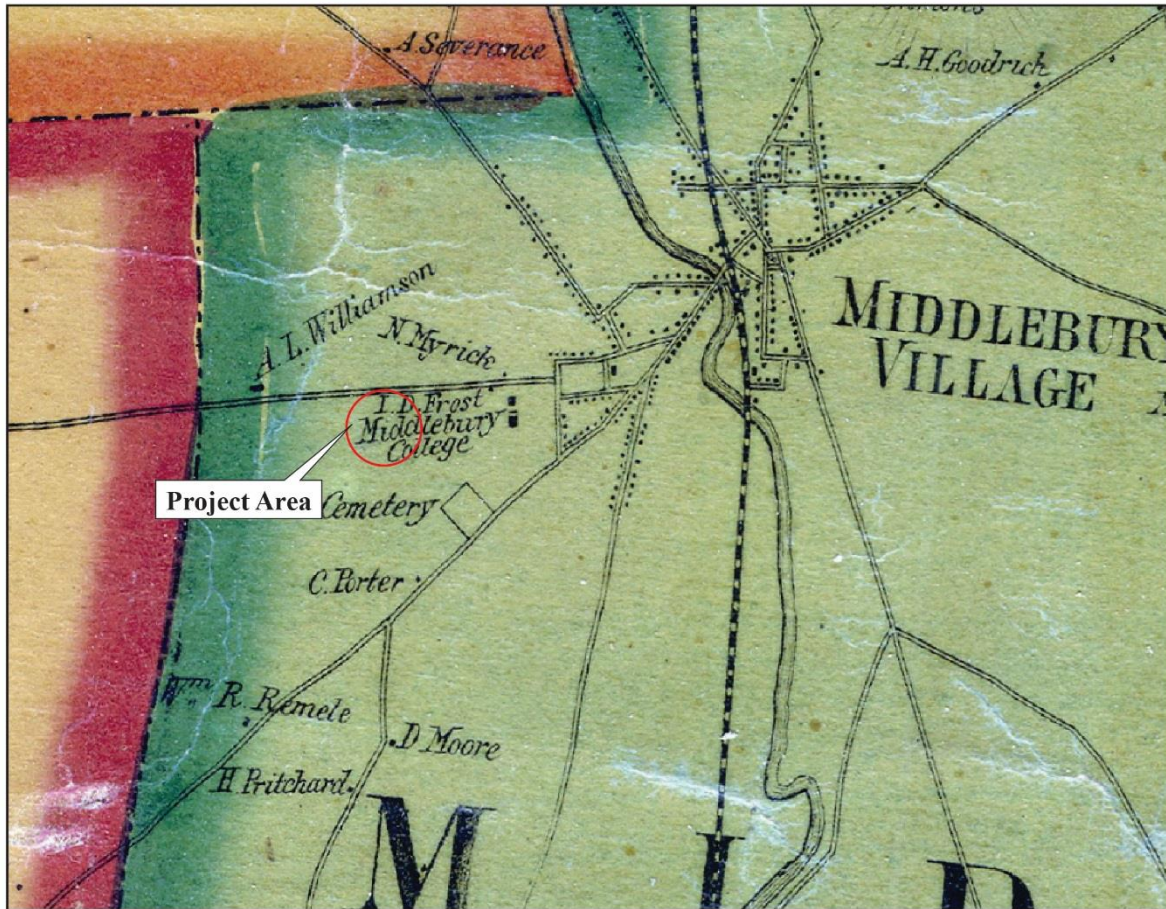


Figure 8. Detail of H.F. Walling's *Map of Addison County, Vermont* (1857), with the approximate location of the project area indicated.

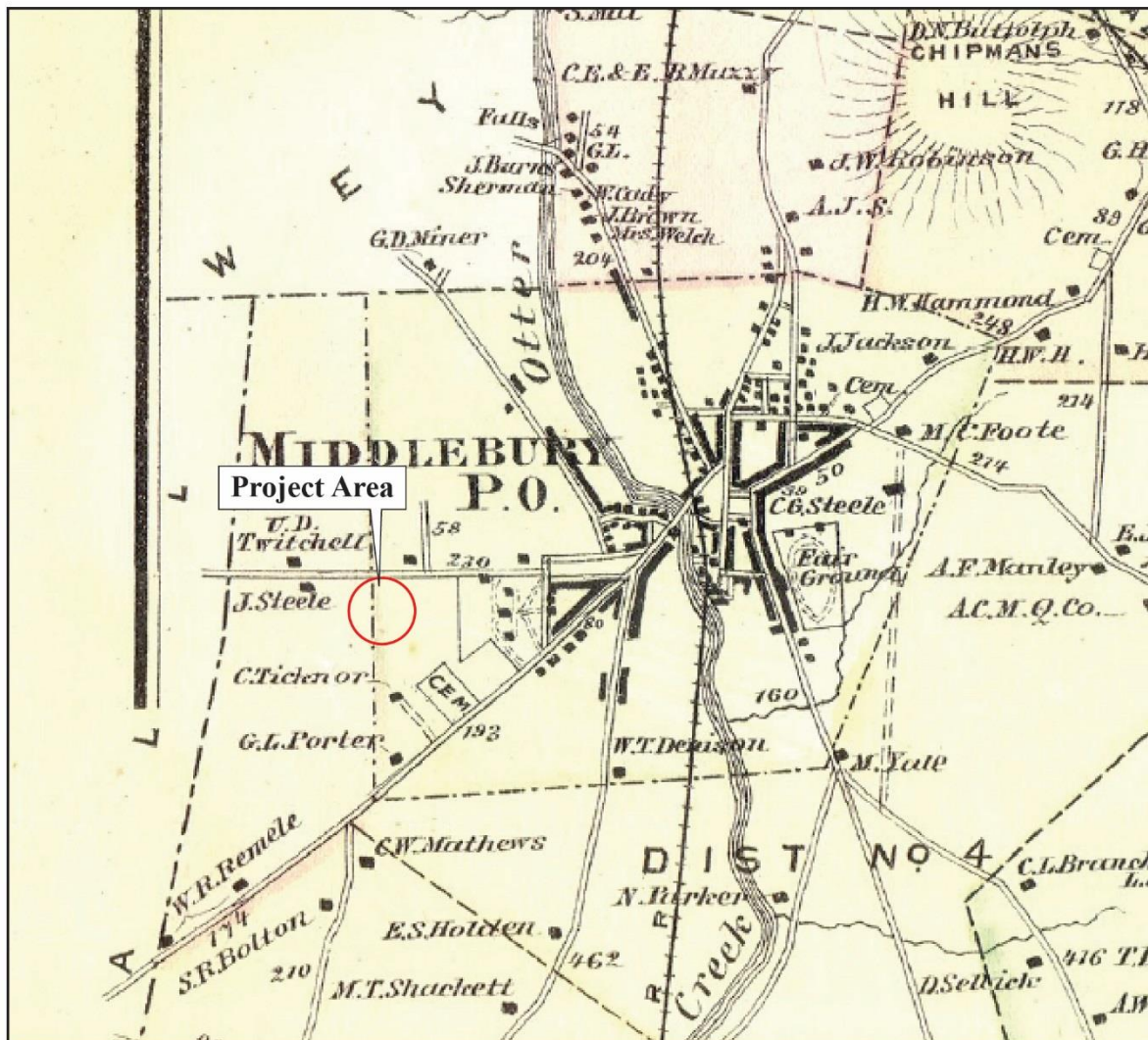


Figure 9. Detail of a map of the Town of Middlebury, Vermont, from F.W. Beers' *Atlas of Addison County, Vermont* (1871), with the approximate location of the project area indicated.

1893), a carpenter and joiner from Rochester, Vermont, who had moved to Middlebury in 1832⁶ (Child 1882:151, 359; Gravestone, Middlebury Cemetery, Middlebury, Vermont; MLR 20:408). Eli Parker only kept his residence at this farm for a very short time (MLR 20:488). On December 1, 1864, he sold this farm (which included land in both Middlebury and Cornwall) to John E. Ainsworth (1825-1912), a sheep dealer originally from New York state, but then of Benson, Vermont, for \$7,400 (MLR 20:488; U.S. Census 1870). In 1870, Ainsworth broke the farm up. On February 14, 1870, he sold the Rev. Ebenezer Smith (1815-1889), who had recently returned to Vermont from California, thirty acres from the eastern side of the farm, including the project area, for \$2,500 (MLR 22:563; U.S. Census 1860, 1870). This land lay south of College Street and abutted Middlebury College on the east (Figure 10). Shortly afterwards, on March 24, 1870, John and Sarah Ainsworth sold the land west of the parcel they sold to Ebenezer Smith to Joseph Steele⁷ (see Figure 9) (MLR 23:33).

In the following years, Ebenezer Smith sold a few acres from his thirty acre lot. For example, in July of 1873, Ebenezer Smith sold ½ acre of the land he bought from Ainsworth in 1870 to James Farrell⁸ (MLR 24:246). However, on March 13, 1879, Ebenezer Smith sold the bulk of the land (about twenty-five acres) that he had acquired from John Ainsworth to his son-in-law, Dolphin S. Fletcher, an insurance agent, and his wife Clara (Smith) Fletcher (MLR 26:383; U.S. Census 1880). At that time, the Fletchers were living with Ebenezer Smith (then retired) and his wife, Caroline (U.S. Census 1870, 1880). In July of 1882, D.S. and Clara Fletcher sold the twenty-five acre parcel to John Little Buttolph for \$800 (MLR 27:132).

John Little Buttolph (1833-1895) was “a well-known resident of Middlebury” and “an extensive and very successful farmer” (*Middlebury Register* April 5, 1895; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908). For many years, he was a leading wool dealer and breeder of Spanish Merinos (Child 1882:350; *Middlebury Register* April 5, 1895). He was the president of the Vermont Merino Sheep Shearing Association and the president of the Addison County Agricultural Association. J.L. Buttolph also served the community as a village trustee, a town selectman, and as the town’s representative in the state legislature in 1890 (*Middlebury Register* April 5, 1895). On December 14, 1882, John L. Buttolph sold the land including the project area to his son, John E. Buttolph (MLR 29:361). In December of 1886, John E. Buttolph sold the same land back to his father (MLR 27:392). John Little Buttolph died in 1895. The inventory of his estate included: his ‘Home Place’ [on Main Street] (valued at \$5,000⁹);

⁶ Eli B. Parker’s son, Lt. Edward Parker of the 11th Vermont Infantry was killed by bloodhounds on October 13, 1864, during an escape attempt from a Confederate prison. Twenty-one years later, in 1885, Eli Parker received a long lost letter written by his son shortly before he tried to make his escape (*Essex County Herald* August 15, 1885).

⁷ The sale price for this parcel at \$6,000 suggests that there was a farmstead located on this land. J. Steele” was probably the Rev. Joseph Steele (1801-1872) who lived in town and who probably rented the farm or had a farm manager (Addison County, Vermont, Addison District, Probate Court Records 1872; Beers 1871; Gravestone, Middlebury Cemetery, Middlebury Vermont). When he died two years later, Steele’s estate included a seventy acre farm “west of the village” (Addison County, Vermont, Addison District, Probate Court Records 1872).

⁸ This lot might be the site of the present “Farrell House” on Middlebury College’s campus. This house was formerly known as #38 College Street (Sanborn Mapping and Publishing Company 1927-1942).

⁹ This value was noted as an “error” in the probate court documents.

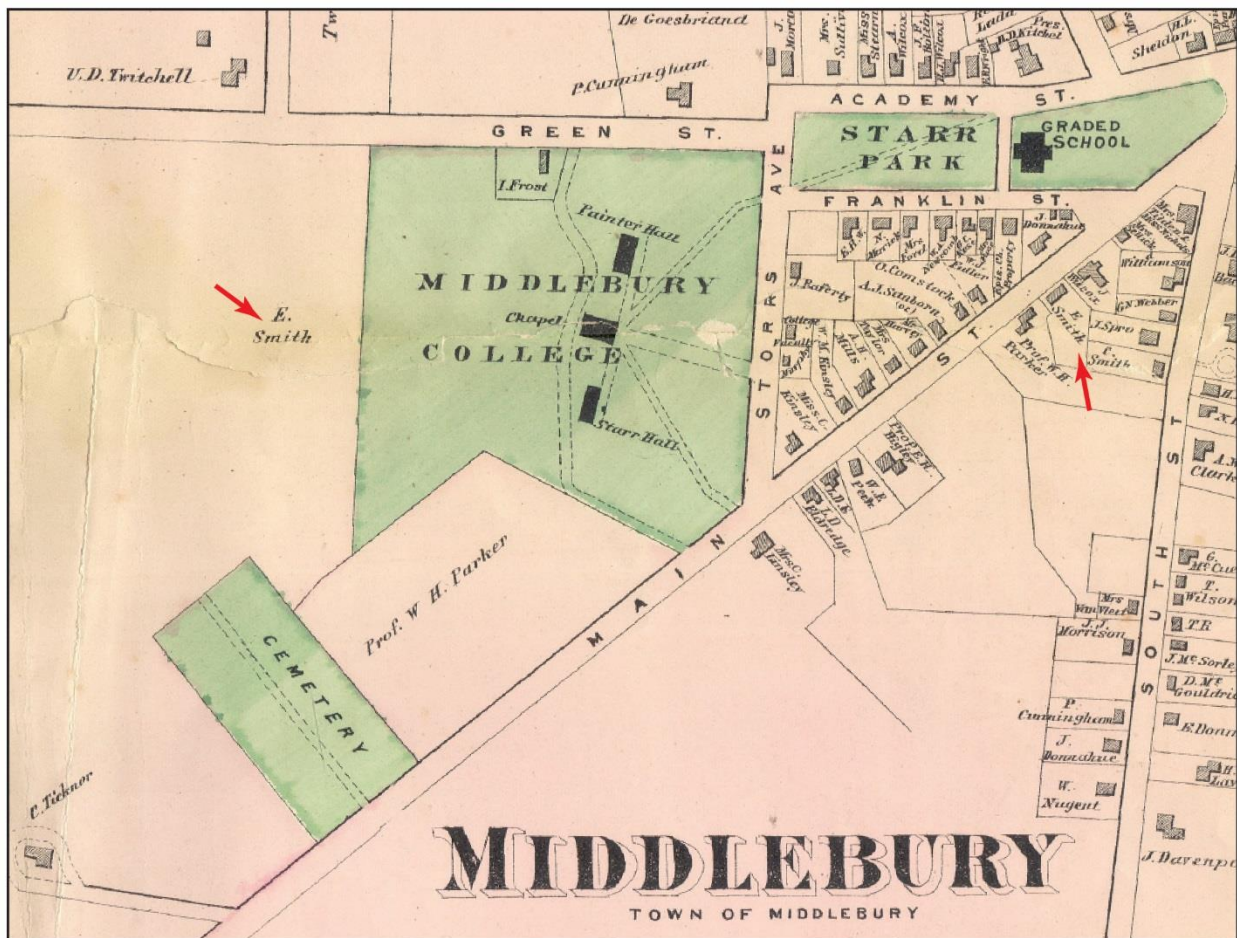


Figure 10. Detail of a map of the Village of Middlebury, Vermont, from F.W. Beers' *Atlas of Addison County, Vermont* (1871). The project area is just off the map to the left (west). However, note the ownership of the land south of Green Street (now College Street) and west (left) of the College property (E. Smith) and the location of Smith's home on Main Street.

the Hammond Farm (\$5,000); the Carr Lot¹⁰ (\$1,500); the Stowell Lot (\$200), the Porter Lot (\$1,050); the Sand Lot (\$750); 30 acres in Cornwall (\$450); and a house and lot in Frog Hollow (\$500) (Addison County Vermont, Addison District, Probate Court Records 1895; Child 1882:350). Among these parcels, the current project area was located on the Sand Lot.¹¹ Acting as the administrator for his father's estate, John E. Buttolph sold two of the above lots; the "Porter-Webber" lot, consisting of nineteen acres, and the [Ebenezer] "Smith or Sand" lot, consisting of twenty-one acres, to Thad M. Chapman, a charcoal, wood, and general merchandise dealer for \$750 and \$630 respectively (Addison County Vermont, Addison District, Probate Court Records 1895; Child 1882:351; MLR 31:402; 37:331). Thad M. Chapman transferred the "Smith or sand" lot back to John E. Buttolph on the same day (MLR 31:402; 37:331).

John Edway Buttolph (1860-1915) was the only son of John Little Buttolph and Caroline "Carrie" Rich (1836-1894) (Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908). John Edway Buttolph left college in his junior year in order to follow other pursuits (*Middlebury Register* December 24, 1915). For many years he was "associated with his father in various activities" and for a few years was engaged in a mercantile business in Middlebury (*Middlebury Register* December 24, 1915). John Edway Buttolph married Fannie Smith (1860-1947) in 1882 and they raised four children (*Middlebury Register* December 24, 1915). In time, John Edway Buttolph became "one of the largest stock farmers in Vermont" owning some fifteen hundred acres of land (French 1914:1257). Like his father, John Edway Buttolph held many public offices including selectman, trustee of the village and town, and state representative in 1900 (*Middlebury Register* December 24, 1915). J. E. Buttolph was also an "expert in road construction" and he worked as the superintendant of streets in Middlebury and as the county road commissioner for many years (French 1914:1257; *Middlebury Register* December 24, 1915). Of potential interest is a newspaper article about Middlebury dated July 7, 1900, which noted that: "E.J. Buttolph is building a barn on his farm near the village" (*Argus and Patriot* July 7, 1900). In the 1900 federal census, John Edway Buttolph listed himself as "Edwy J. Buttolph" and there was nobody else listed in the town as "E.J. Buttolph." However, if this article indeed refers to John Edway Buttolph it is not clear which of his properties "near the village" he was building this particular barn on.

John E. Buttolph died in 1915 and his widow, Fannie Buttolph, subsequently sold part of the "Smith or Sand Bank Lot" (including the current project area) to William L. Turner. William Louis Turner (1888-1951) was a son of Ezra and Jane (Youtt) Turner of Middlebury. His father, Ezra Turner (1862-1945), worked variously as a laborer, a teamster, and as a janitor for the public high school (U.S. Census 1900, 1910; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Death Records 1909-2008 and Vermont Vital Records 1720-1908). Early on, William Turner worked as a railroad baggage master (U.S. Census 1910). By 1920, he was working in a marble mill and by 1930 he was employed by the Village of Middlebury as a policeman (U.S. Census 1920, 1930). In 1940, he was with Middlebury College as a 'fireman' (probably for the boilers) (U.S.

¹⁰ The 'Carr Place' was located "two miles east" of Middlebury Village (*St. Albans Daily Messenger* January 9, 1905). A barn on that property, then belonging to J.E. Buttolph and valued at \$300-\$400, was destroyed by high winds early in January of 1905 (*St. Albans Daily Messenger* January 9, 1905).

¹¹ This may refer to a small pocket of well sorted littoral sand (no rocks or boulders) that was indicated in the general area by Doll, Stewart, and MacClintock (1970), which was *possibly* quarried (see Figure 13). According to the NRCS, the soil in the immediate area of the foundation consists primarily of Nellis stony loam on 8-15% slopes. This soil is derived from coarse loamy till.

Census 1940). In his later years, he worked as a janitor for the college (Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Death Records 1909-2008).

William Turner married Irene (Crossman) (1889-1948) in 1909 and they had three children: Roy, Lloyd, and Marion. In December of 1914, William Turner decided to settle on College Street and bought a small parcel of land on the south side of the street.¹² At the time of the sale, a local paper noted that: “William Turner has purchased through the N.S. Foote real estate agency two building lots belonging to Ira LaFleur on College Street. Mr. Turner expects to build in the early spring” (*Middlebury Register* December 4, 1914). Land records and the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate that William Turner’s house was located at “#40 College Street,” which is today known as #23 Adirondack View and currently houses several offices for the department of environmental studies (Sanborn Mapping and Publishing Company 1927/1944). In 1919, William Turner bought a few additional acres adjacent to his home lot from Fannie Buttloph, the widow of J.E. Buttloph¹³ (MLR 37:283). Finally, in 1920, William Turner acquired a large part of the ‘Smith lot’ or “sand bank” property lying west of his house, which included the current project area from Fannie Buttloph (MLR 37:331). This parcel was bounded north by College Street, east by William Turner’s own land and the Catholic Cemetery; south by property belong to Thad Chapman; and west by Charles Harris.

William Turner was the force behind the opening of Adirondack View, possibly as an initial step to subdividing some of his property. In 1929, Turner arranged with John and Doris Bowker to build the street for which they were partially compensated with a house lot along it.¹⁴ Turner donated Adirondack View to the town of Middlebury in 1930 (MLR 43:123; 43:740). Later, William Turner sold a few house lots near the project area, including those sold to his children and to his brother, Leon Turner¹⁵ (e.g. MLR 50:657; 50:658). However, the land with the barn remained with William Turner and the building and some of the land nearby appear to have been used for gardening or small scale farming through the early twentieth century (Figures 11-15). William Turner died in 1951 and interest in his estate was divided among his three children on January 7, 1952 (MLR 50:657). It appears that the barn structure may have been completely removed prior to 1962 (Figure 16). In 1965, his children and their spouses, sold a 14.5 acre parcel with the barn foundation on it to Middlebury College (MLR 60:368).

¹² The chain of title for this property goes from J.E. Buttloph to Amos Thompson in 1912, to Ira LaFleur in 1914 and then to William Turner in 1914 (MLR 34:730, 37:57; 37:66).

¹³ At some point (prior to 1938), William Turner also built a cottage south of his house, which was once was known as #4 Adirondack View, but is now numbered #33 Adirondack View.

¹⁴ The present day ‘Bowker Farm’ building owned by Middlebury College is located at the south end of Adirondack View.

¹⁵ Among the lots sold by William Turner was one located just north of the barn, which he sold to his brother, Leon Turner (1899-1978) and his wife, Pauline (Baker) Turner (1900-1993) in March of 1933 (MLR 43:233; Vermont Secretary of State, Vermont Death Records 1909-2008). On this lot the “Turner House” was built. This parcel originally measured 262 ft along College Street and only 30.5 m (100 ft) south of College Street (MLR 50:381). In 1956, the children of William Turner sold Leon Turner an additional strip of land south of his house, measuring 68ft wide north-south (MLR 55:628). In 1940, Leon Turner worked as a night watchman for Middlebury College; he had previously worked as a photographer and a salesman (U.S. Census 1920, 1930, 1940). His daughter, Alice Turner, who died young (1924-1954) also worked for the college as a secretary in the athletics department (*The Middlebury Campus* December 9, 1954).

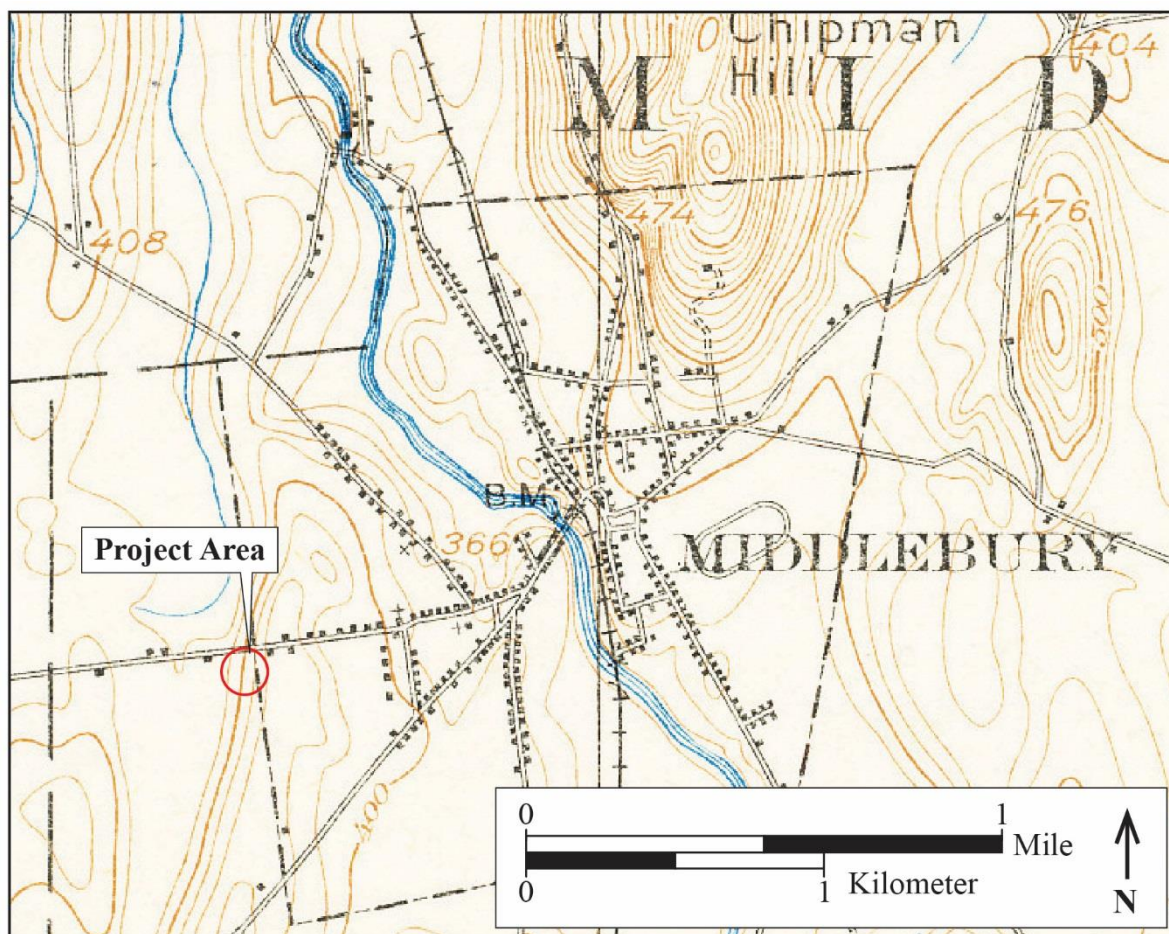


Figure 11. Detail of the 1905 United States Geological Survey's 15-Minute Quadrangle, *Middlebury, VT*, with the approximate location of the project area indicated.

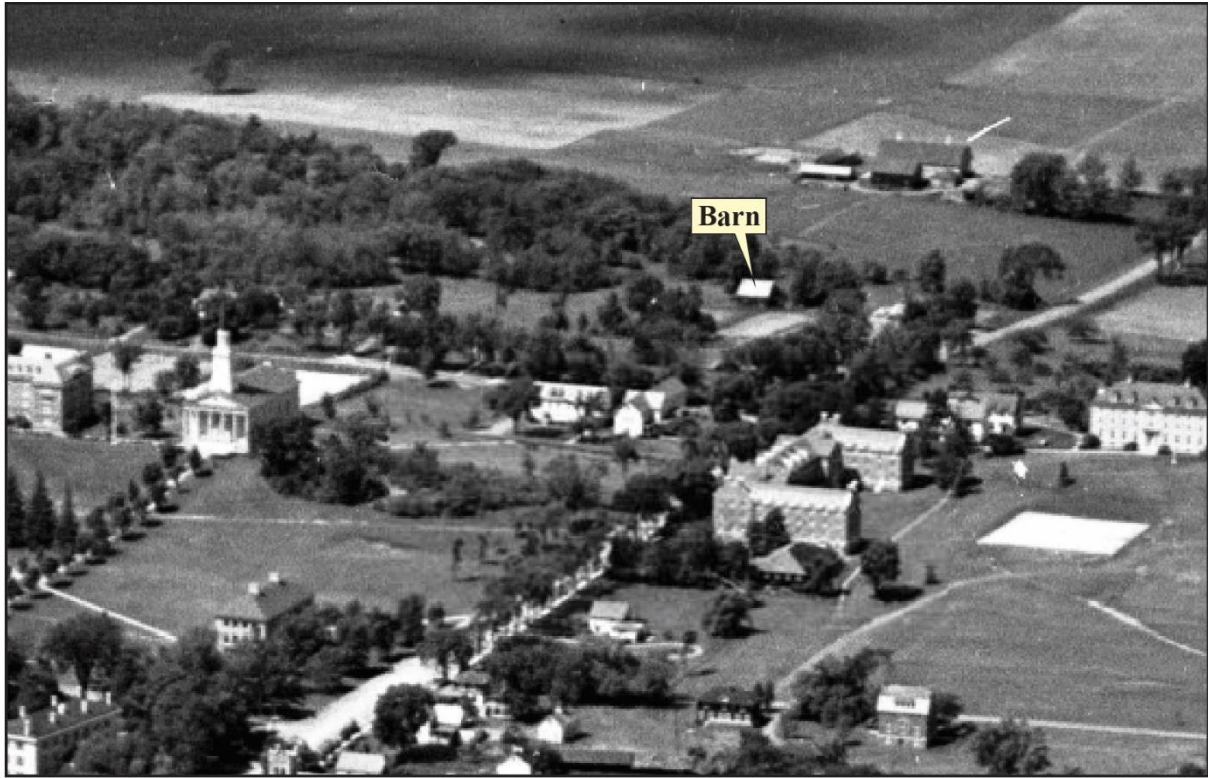


Figure 12. Detail of an aerial view of Middlebury, Vermont, taken in June of 1938, looking west. College Street is near the middle of the image extending diagonally from the foreground to the background (Used with permission: George Lathrop Collection 1992 78.78.464; Collection of Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury, Vermont).



Figure 13. Detail of an aerial view of Middlebury, Vermont, looking northeast, taken on October 28, 1938 (Used with permission. George Lathrop Collection 1986.310.355-360 Neg. #359; Collection of Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury, Vermont). The current project area is at the lower left of this image (see Figure 14).



Figure 14. Close up of the aerial view seen in Figure 13 (Used with permission. George Lathrop Collection; Collection of Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury, Vermont). This image shows the barn and the Leon Turner House at left. Note the lane leading from William Turner's house and cottage (the first houses located to the right of the barn just across Adirondack View) towards the area of the barn.



Figure 15. Detail of another aerial view of Middlebury, Vermont, taken on October 28, 1938, looking east northeast (Used with permission: George Lathrop Collection 1986.310.355-360 Neg. #356; Collection of Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury, Vermont). This image shows the barn in the center foreground. Note the extension of the stone wall / foundation to the right (south) of the standing structure.



Figure 16. Detail of a 1962 aerial photograph showing a portion of Middlebury, Vermont, including the current project area (Geotechnics & Resources Inc., 1962). North is to the top of the image.

DISCUSSION

The barn foundation within the project can only be generally dated to sometime between the mid-1800s and the early 1900s. The overall footprint of the foundation (45 x 70 ft) is much larger than the 30 x 40 ft “English style barns” which were most common from the early settlement period to the early 1800s, so it probably dates after the first decades of the nineteenth century (Visser 1997:61). It also appears to have had a full cellar, which further indicates a later construction date. According to architectural historian Thomas Visser, “until the 1820s most barns were built without full basements”, and basements extending under the entire barn were only gradually adopted “between the 1830s and 1850s” (Visser 1997:40-41). With the development of the ground level stable barn design, few barns were built with basements after the 1920s (Visser 1997:44). The dry-laid stone foundation walls suggest a construction date up to the early twentieth century, when poured-concrete foundation walls became common (Visser 1997:44).

Historic maps and land records suggest this foundation may have supported a field barn, meaning one that was built some distance from the farmstead or residence on the same property. There were no direct indications of a residence ever being located near this barn in the archival records checked for this report. Although it is possibly the result of post-occupational

disturbance, the lack of a built up foundation wall along the north part of the western side of the barn foundation suggests that the barn had an intentional ‘open basement’ plan. Barns built into the side of hills on well drained land¹⁶ and stoned up on three sides, but having an open section of basement on the remaining side were popular with sheep farmers from the 1850s to the late-nineteenth century (Visser 1997:162-164). These barns provided shelter for the animals in the basement below and room for a sizable hayloft above (Visser 1997:163-164). Given the history of this property, this is a distinct possibility, as a few of the owners were major sheep breeders, including John Ainsworth and the Buttolphs. Thomas Visser also notes, that by the end of the 19th century the heyday of the sheep industry had passed for good and many of the sheep barns were demolished, abandoned and allowed to “collapse from neglect,” or were modified for new uses (Visser 1997:165).

The difference in the size of the surviving foundation and the size of the barn that can be seen in the aerial images from the 1930s (see Figures 4, 13-15), may suggest that either a part of the foundation was reused after the removal or loss of an original structure, or that part of the barn’s superstructure was moved, damaged and/or dismantled at some point. Curiously, there was a significant, unexplained drop in price for the parcel that included the project area between the time it was included in the 30 acre lot that John Ainsworth sold to Ebenezer Smith in 1870 for \$2,500 and when it was included in the 25 acre lot that D.S. Fletcher and his wife sold to John L. Buttolph in 1882 for \$800 (MLR 22:563 and 27:132). At any rate, the smaller structure on site seen in the air photos was maintained and used well into the twentieth century, with the area along its western wall / southwestern corner being used as a domestic dump. Unfortunately, none of the records checked, either land or probate, ever specifically mention a barn being on this site. One last place to check for answers would be in the grand list and/or tax rolls for the town.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The documentary evidence gathered and field observations made for this report suggest that the barn foundation within the current project area may date to as early as the 1850s, that the building that once stood on the foundation may have been modified in the late 1800s or early 1900s, and that the final removal or loss of the structure, most likely occurred in the 1950s. The surface scatter of refuse on site is probably associated with the William Turner household ca. 1920-1950 and, possibly, the Leon Turner household ca. 1930s-1950s (given the proximity of Leon Turner’s house to the site). There does not appear to have been an earlier period house nearby the barn foundation, and it is possible that the foundation was built for a field barn. Based on this Archaeological Resources Assessment, the barn foundation is not considered a significant archaeological resource and therefore this review recommends a determination of *No Historic Properties Affected*. No further archaeological work is recommended in connection with this structure.

¹⁶ The dryness of the site for a sheep barn was a most important consideration due to sheep (in particular ‘fine wool’ sheep such as Merinos) susceptibility to foot- rot.

REFERENCES CITED

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